

How Scouting Works

The National Council

Part of the World Organization of the Scout movement, the **Boy Scouts of America** were first established in 1910. The headquarters of the National Council, BSA is in Irving Texas. The National Council provides all scouting units with liability insurance, operates the high adventure bases, maintains the supplies needed for members to have scouting programs, establishes and maintains relationships with the national headquarters of sponsoring organizations such as the Church of Latter Day Saints and the American Legion, sets national policy, establishes, evaluates and updates the Scouting program and supports local councils.

The Local Council

Local councils petition the National Council for the right to serve youth through Scouting in specific geographic areas. Your Local Council is the **Pennsylvania Dutch Council**. It serves Lancaster and Lebanon Counties in Central Pennsylvania. A local council is a not for profit corporation led by a professional scouter with an executive board comprised of annually elected local community leaders. Board members are volunteers.

It is the role of the local council to support Scouting and the Scout units within their territory. The council establishes local policies and programs. It maintains the council camps. It provides community service opportunities for units. It builds a plan for the financial support of the organization. The local council administers support to units through districts.

The District

Direct support to your unit is administered through the district and is the place where most things that directly affect your unit happen. Districts vary in size and scope. Most districts will be between 50 to 80 units in size, serving between 1000-3000 youth.

There are three districts within the PA Dutch Council. Depending where you live, your unit will fall in one of these. The **Conestoga River District** serves youth from Penn Manor, SOLANCO, Lampeter/Strasburg, Pequea Valley, Conestoga Valley and ELANCO School Districts. The **Harvest District** serves Elizabethtown, Donegal, Columbia Borough, Manheim Central, Manheim Township, Hempfield and the Lancaster School Districts. The **Horse-Shoe Trail District** serves the Lancaster County School Districts of Cocalico, Ephrata, Warwick and all of Lebanon County.

Each District is comprised of a corps of volunteers and a professional scouter to help guide and assist them. The size of this group usually varies depending on the size of the district. At the top of each district is the Key Three, it is comprised of the district professional, the District Chairman and the District Commissioner. It is their job to provide the vision that will help to recruit enough youth and volunteers, raise enough money and provide enough opportunities for units to make that district a success.

The Conestoga River Key Three are;

District Director Scott Arnold; Phone (717)394-4063, scott.arnold@scouting.org

District Chairman Dave Kilmer; Phone (717)419-4522, dkilmer@redrosetransit.com

District Commissioner, Ed Van Arsdale; Phone (717) 413-7825, aevlll@epix.net

The Harvest Key Three;

Field Director Chris Styers; Phone (717)394-4063, cstyers@bsaemail.org

District Chairman Tom Rudzinski; Phone (717) 569-6993, tomrudz@comcast.net

District Commissioner Mark Forth; Phone (717) 426-2482, Mforth6144@aol.com

The Horse-Shoe Trail Key Three;

Senior District Executive Colin Romberger; Phone (717)394-4063,
colin.romberger@scouting.org

District Chairman Al Alley; Phone; (717)228-9032, Email: aalley@comcast.net

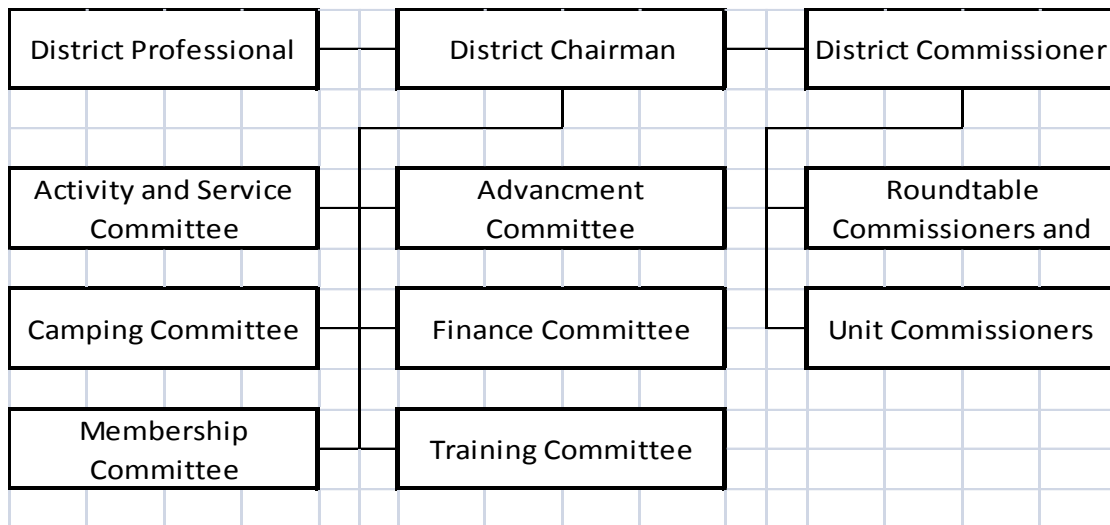
District Commissioner Mark Hartman; Phone: (717)203-3461 Email: troutbum@ptd.net

The Functions and Organization of the District

The District is organized under the leadership of the Key Three. The District Chairman is a volunteer directly responsible for the district committee and is elected on an annual basis. The district commissioner is appointed by the Council Executive Board and also serves on an annual basis. The district professional is selected and appointed by the Council Scout Executive.

District organization will slightly vary, but under each District Chairman is a volunteer district committee whose sole function is to help local units and their sponsors be successful. Under each district Commissioner is a corps of dedicated volunteers designed to be the helping hands for a unit. These volunteers usually have years of Scouting experience behind them and can usually answer most questions you may have.

Districts support the council and units in 7 main areas; Activities and Service, Advancement, Camping, Finance, Membership, Training and Unit Service



Activities and Service

District activities include a variety of things including Camporees, Breakfast hikes, Cub-o-ramas, District Pinewood Derbies, and other activities meant for Scouts and their families.

The council annually organizes a large helping hands event called “Scouting for Food” in the month of November with all materials furnished. Additionally guidance is given for units to record their service hours.

Advancement

The advancement function helps all leaders to understand the advancement policies of the Boy Scouts of America. Units with low advancements are noted and nurtured to improve. For Boy Scouts, the merit badge counselor list is managed and maintained through this committee. This committee is also responsible for significant achievements and awards including Eagle Scout.

Camping

For camping, units are informed about the council summer programs and information is given about all camps. Additionally, units are strongly encouraged to conduct their own camping in accordance with the published guidelines of the BSA.

Finance

Every thing has a cost and Scouting is no different. The function of the finance committee is to help raise funds for both units and local council operation. This is done

through Friends of Scouting, Special Events and project sales. Additionally, units have the opportunity to raise funds by participating in the council popcorn sale and the camp card sales.

When participating in council sales, units do not have to sign independent contracts or assume potential risks.

There are strict guidelines on unit money earning and before any fundraiser units should complete a Unit Money Earning Application. This will help to ensure that units are adhering to BSA policy as well as helping to keep non-reputable companies away and possibly placing units and their sponsors in poor situations.

Districts will also help units to create operating budgets and give fiscal guidance as required or requested.

Membership

Within the membership function the district organizes new units where there is a need, recruits new youth and adult members to new and existing units as well as the district itself, guides transition programs from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts to Venturing, help units to retain youth and helps units to recharter on-time.

New units may be organized in areas where youth are being underserved. This could be for many reasons, a unit meeting on a night that is already very busy, other population centers within the school district to far away from where you meet, or possibly groups of youth that for some other reason are not able to be part of an existing unit. Please remember the goal is to involve as many youth as possible in this great program.

Recruitment resources provide materials and some help for your unit. Where it is possible talks are organized to excite youth about joining Scouting. Round-up flyers, posters and yard signs are provided to all units free of charge. Publicity articles are sent out to local papers to promote local units. The National BeAScout website shows people where and when your unit meets. Additionally, relationships are kept with local school districts to keep current of their local policies on non-school activities.

Information is shared with troops and crews to recruit youth who have left the program and to foster relationships between units.

Every unit and member is registered with the national council on an annual basis. This process is called recharter. Units are provided with materials to enable them to recharter. Rechartering on time is important because only members who are registered may advance, attend events and are covered under BSA insurances.

Training

A trained leader provides a better program for youth and because of that they have more fun and stay in Scouting longer. Volunteers are recognized as they complete training with several different awards. The District and Council both operate specific trainings as well as the offerings of the national council through MyScouting e-learning. Districts track trainings and help to monitor a unit's progress, this is especially important since training is a mandatory requirement for leadership here in the PA Dutch Council.

Unit Service

Unit Service is provided directly through our unit commissioners. Each unit has a volunteer assigned to it that provides direct coaching and consultation for unit adults. This group is managed through the District Commissioner. If your unit commissioner is unable to help you please first contact the district commissioner. In some cases the unit commissioner may ask that you speak with a member of the district committee.

If you are unsure who your unit commissioner is please contact your district commissioner for their information.

There is also a monthly leader meeting called roundtable. See your calendar for district specifics. Roundtables are a great place to learn new things, keep current on BSA programs and policies and network with other leaders. Roundtable locations are;

Conestoga River; Lampeter United Methodist Church, 1651 Book Rd, Lancaster 17602

Harvest; Mountville Church of Brethren, 60 Clay Street, Mountville, PA 17554

Horse-Shoe Trail; Cedar Crest Middle School, 101 E Evergreen Road Lebanon, PA 170421

Your Unit

Whether you belong to a Cub Scout Pack, a Boy Scout Troop or a Venture Crew your unit is where Scouting directly happens. The "owner" of your unit is your sponsor or chartering institution, similar to a franchise. Each sponsor signs an annual agreement with the Local council to conduct a scouting program(s). As the owner they are the possessor of any unit equipment and the unit's treasury. They will provide the meeting place for BSA youth, oversee the volunteer leaders, and agree to follow the basic BSA safety policies and program.